The Seven Core Principles of Zen Art

by Shinichi Hisamatsu

Kanso (Simplicity): Eliminating clutter and excess to express things in a plain, clean, and natural way.

Fukinsei (Asymmetry): Embracing irregularity and imbalance to reflect the dynamic harmony found in nature.

Koko (Austerity): Using basic, weathered, or unadorned elements to show a mature, austere sublimity.

Shizen (Naturalness): Creating art without forced intent or artificial pretense, letting things be genuinely themselves.

Yugen (Subtlety): Suggesting a profound, hidden depth or grace rather than spelling everything out clearly.

Datsuzoku (Break from routine): Transcending conventional formulas and freeing the mind from rigid habits.

Seijaku (Tranquility): Cultivating an active, inward-facing stillness, silence, and peace.